

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 00170 131042Z

15

ACTION IO-11

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 AGR-05 AID-05 L-03 DODE-00 SS-15

DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 SNM-02 TRSE-00

USIA-06 NSC-05 OES-03 OMB-01 /071 W

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P R 131017Z JAN 76

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7511

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, SZ, KS, TW

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE PROPOSAL FOR OPIUM PRODUCTION IN THE REPUBLIC
OF KOREA

REF: STATE 301487

1. WE CONVEYED SUBSTANCE REFTEL TO INCB SECRETARY DITTERT
ASAP FOLLOWING HIS RETURN GENEVA FROM CHRISTMAS LEAVE.

2. DITTERT SAW ROK MISSION COUNSELOR LEE ON JAN 8. TOLD LEE
INCB HAD LEARNED THAT ROK MIGHT BE GIVING SOME THOUGHT TO
POSSIBILITY OF PRODUCING OPIUM FOR EXPORT. SAID BOARD IS
CONCERNED AT SUCH POSSIBILITY AND WOULD APPRECIATE CLARIFICATION
ROK INTENTION. DITTERT RECALLED PROVISIONS 1961 CONVENTION
TO WHICH ROK IS PARTY, NOTING THAT ROK IS PRESENTLY NOT AUTH-
ORIZED PRODUCE OPIUM FOR EXPORT. SAID THAT INCB AS MATTER OF
POLICY DOES NOT FAVOR NEW OPIUM PRODUCERS AND TAKES POSITION THAT
SUCH PRODUCTION IS UNECONOMIC BECAUSE OF SUBSTANTIAL EXPENSE
REQUIRED FOR ADEQUATE CONTROLS TO PREVENT DIVERSION TO ILLICIT
CHANNELS. NOTED THAT FOR THIS REASON THROUGH THE YEARS
PRODUCERS HAVE GRADUALLY ABANDONED PRODUCTION SO THAT
NOW INDIA IS SOLE PRODUCER AUTHORIZED EXPORT OPIUM.

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PAGE 02 GENEVA 00170 131042Z

ADDED THAT ALTHOUGH THERE HAS RECENTLY BEEN SOME QUESTION

ABOUT ADEQUACY NARCOTIC RAW MATERIALS TO MEET MEDICAL REQUIREMENTS, THIS NO LONGER IS MATTER OF CONCERN TO BOARD WHICH IN FACT CURRENTLY EXPECTS OVER-PRODUCTION OF SUCH MATERIALS. (DITTERT SPOKE IN TERMS SOLELY OF OPIUM AND DID NOT REFER TO POPPY STRAW.)

3. LEE ASKED FOR MEMO SETTING FORTH INCB'S VIEWS. THIS IS BEING PREPARED. MEMO WILL RECAPITULATE WHAT DITTERT SAID ORALLY, WILL OFFER MAKE ANY FURTHER EXPLANATIONS WHICH ROK MAY DESIRE AND WILL ASK ROK TO INFORM BOARD OF ITS INFORMATION. DALE

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